

Pope condemns Israeli action against Al Aqsa worshipers

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul, unusually answering reporters' questions, has said he found Israeli police action against worshipers at a revered Jerusalem Mosque Friday unacceptable.

He went on to say the Soviet Union had not invited him for a visit this year.

The pontiff visited Rome's Foreign Press Club on Sunday for its 75th anniversary and once again demonstrated his mastery of the media.

He usually answers reporters only on planes during foreign tours but agreed to take five questions when asked by the club president at the end of a speech on journalists' duties.

After two uninspired questions the Pope himself challenged reporters, saying he had expected "more naughty" queries from the 200 in the room.

A Tunisian journalist asked his opinion on the use by Israeli

police of tear gas against people leaving Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest shrine, after Friday prayers.

"Certainly, one cannot accept in any way what you mentioned, that is, attacking people in prayer," he said.

He said he recognises Jewish rights and added: "But there are also rights for other people, for example, the Palestinians." Vatican policy to that Israel has a right to exist but the Palestinians need a homeland.

"A solution must be found and to find the solution the two sides must act. It must be bilateral. World opinion is waiting... They have been morally invited to tackle the problem to resolve it.

situation which is so painful," the Pope said.

Last month, the Pope criticised violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where at least 39 Palestinians have been killed in five weeks of revolt.

The Palestinian question and differences over whether Jerusalem should be the Israeli capital are the two main obstacles to diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

The Pope, who wants Jerusalem to have international status protecting it as sacred for Christians, Muslims and Jews, said the city was a moral point of reference for the great religions.

The other main topic was whether he would visit the Soviet Union this year for the one-thousandth anniversary of the advent of Christianity there.

The Pope said: "I think you are preparing for this trip more than I am. It must be a real visit as a

response to a real invitation. This invitation has not arrived so far."

He has said he would visit the Soviet Union only if he were allowed into Catholic areas such as Lithuania.

The cordial atmosphere and the relaxed question-and-answer session ended abruptly when a journalist who defined himself as Jewish asked the Pope if his many recent references to the holocaust were an attempt to diminish its significance for Jews.

The pontiff, who had earlier smiled and joked with journalists, stared at the elderly man with piercing eyes and said coldly:

"I am shocked. I cannot say anything more. I am shocked by your question."

The Pope let his hands fall to his sides in obvious anger and amazement and made it clear he would not entertain further questions.

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U.K. commander: Iranian speedboats 'major threat'

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The commander of a British warship on patrol duties in the Gulf said Monday he considers Iranian speedboats the major threat to commercial navigation.

The comment by Commander Robert I. Money was similar to a view expressed by U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci during his visit to the Gulf earlier this month.

Money told reporters aboard the Royal Navy frigate HMS Scylla, during a port call at Bahrain, that there have been increasing contacts between the U.S. and Soviet naval units in the Gulf. "Glasnost" is evident throughout the Gulf," he said.

The Scylla is a member of the 10-unit Armilla Patrol, Britain's contribution to the armada of Western naval forces beefed up in the past year as Iranian threats to commercial navigation in the waterway escalated.

In a possibly parallel move to an expected thinning out of warships by the U.S. Navy, Money said Britain's supply ship, HMS Abdiel, would be released from duty, reducing the Armilla Patrol to 9 units.

But he rejected any criticism of the deployment of the naval task forces in the region, stressing their importance for national flag vessels.

Stressing that he was speaking personally, the officer said he thought a multinational fleet under the U.N. flag was a feasible way to provide protection for vessels not protected by a particular navy but "in sharp focus" for Iran's raiders.

The more cooperation we can have by everyone in town, the better it would be," he said. "If all the nations cooperated, it would be a better thing to make the Gulf less dangerous to sail."

The so-called tanker war, in which Iraq attacks Iran's oil tankers and Iran retaliates by striking neutral commercial ship-

ping, has been "progressively deteriorating," Money said.

According to the London-based Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit, there were 34 strikes in December out of a total of 178 ships attacked by both combatants throughout the year, making both 1987 and the month the worst since the tanker war began in 1984.

Naval officers and others say the Iranians are growing more efficient with their attacks, whether through targeting ability or better weapons.

Money said the speedboats surprised the "terrible threat" of Chinese-made Silk worm missiles that the Iranians have deployed.

Money said the speedboats completed the average 2 to 3-day trip through the waterway.

But it had been delayed in the central Gulf as it had to wait for a supply ship that was not at the rendezvous point north of the Qatar peninsula, according to U.S. Navy officials.

Money said known minefields had been cleared, but the Armilla Patrol would retain its four mine-hunting units because the threat could recur and it would take six weeks to bring them back.

Two frigates and a destroyer "accompany" about 15 to 20 British flag or British-owned com-

mercial vessels every week through the Hormuz and up to the central Gulf. A convoy of British vessels was moving northward through the Hormuz on Monday as a U.S.-escorted vessel was sailing out, Helicopter-borne reporters said.

Money said Royal Navy rules of engagement offer protection to the British ships and to "assisting in saving lives" aboard vessels of other nationalities when necessary. He cited various cases of humanitarian assistance by British ships, including one on Christmas Day, to non-British ships.

The Scylla has not been close to any ship under attack. Asked what would happen if it were, Money said he would decide at the time but stressed "we are not acting as policemen... it's more like picking up the pieces after action has taken place."

He said there was a general atmosphere of tension in the Gulf, where ships must be vigilant against the Iraqis as well as the Iranians. "You learn to expect the unexpected... as soon as the pattern is set... it changes... it's all extremely unpredictable."

There were "practical difficulties... in the selection and control" of firing a Silk worm at a ship passing through the narrow strait with so much traffic around, but "the speedboats are the big threat," he said.

"They have a small radar signature, are difficult to pick up and very difficult to detect... they have no radios, they are relatively heavily armed," he said.

Incendiary devices

In addition, he said, the Iranians have introduced incendiary devices, which he described as "phosphorus derived shells or grenades" that cause more severe fires aboard commercial ships.

The most recent attack by Iran's Swedish-built Boghammar speedboats, on the Liberian-flag tanker Rainbow last Saturday, occurred in Oman's territorial waters, he noted.

The Omanis told them they were violating their water and directed them to leave, and the next moment the Rainbow was burning fiercely," Money said.

Mines, speedboats, and the Silk worms are considered the three major threats to commercial

Greece claims right to extend Aegean territorial waters

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government has reiterated that it had the right to extend Greece's territorial waters in the Aegean Sea to 12 miles from six.

"The extension of the Greek territorial waters to 12 miles from six is a purely Greek affair," government spokesman Yannis Roufis said in a statement.

Roufis said on Saturday it would not tolerate any Greek move to extend its territorial waters in the Aegean, following a statement by Greek Energy Minister Anastassios Papanis that Greece was planning oil explorations in the disputed waters.

A clash was averted when the ship remained inside Turkish waters and Papandreu was

exchanging messages with Ozal since then.

before a planned meeting between Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at an international economic forum in Switzerland.

Greece and Turkey, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), nearly came to blows last March after Turkey said the seismic survey ship Piri Reis would search for oil around three Greek islands off its coast.

A clash was averted when the ship remained inside Turkish waters and Papandreu was

exchanging messages with Ozal since then.

The peaceful midday demonstration started outside the Times' offices, then the protesters marched with police escort to the television stations.

The demonstration included members of anti-apartheid groups and other human rights organisations, Jeffers said.

Speakers included Farhat Ziadeh, West Bank native who has lived in the United States for 40 years and is a retired University of Washington professor, Jeffers said.

The speakers called for an end to what they said was the U.S. government's funding of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Qatar, Bahrain meet on border dispute

RIYADH (R) — Foreign ministers of Bahrain and Qatar have met in Saudi-sponsored talks here in an effort to resolve a dispute over a cluster of islands in the Gulf, the Jeddah-based Arab News newspaper said.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa and Qatar's envoy Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Seif Al Thani spent two hours together on suggestions to end the impasse over the atolls lying between the neighbouring states.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal

attended the talks.

Israeli army attempts to starve Gaza refugees into submission

JABALIYA, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — One day after the Israeli army barred United Nations trucks filled with fruit and vegetables from this refugee camp, Farida Zidan and her six children ate the last of their food supply: tea and scraps of pit bread.

"We had food for today, now it is finished," said Mrs. Zidan, 45, holding an empty gallon-sized plastic bottle for cooking oil upside down to illustrate her point.

"The last time we ate meat was in November. Fruit, we don't even see it."

Israeli army officers deny they are trying to starve the Palestinians into submission. Their tactic appears aimed at preventing Palestinians from going to their jobs, and storekeepers from earning revenue, in the belief that this will motivate the breadwinners to make the militiamen a truce.

Mochtar, who returned from a trip to Cairo, Madrid and Paris, said Friday's attack "creates problems for many countries, including the allies of Israel."

Israeli troops fired tear gas canisters during a protest as worshippers were coming out of Islam's third holiest shrine after Friday prayers.

Mochtar, who was in Cairo on Jan. 10, said he discussed with his Egyptian counterpart Esmat Abdul Maguid Israel's handling of the revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where at least 39 Palestinians have been killed in the last month.

Japan calls for restraint

In Tokyo, Japan on Monday called on Israel to exercise restraint in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to ensure that there were no more casualties there.

A Foreign ministry spokesman said the Israeli Ambassador in Tokyo, Yaakov Cohen, had been told it was regrettable the disturbances had not yet been settled and called on Israel to protect the rights of civilians in the area.

Demonstration in Seattle

About 200 people demonstrated Sunday outside the offices of the Seattle Times newspaper and three television stations, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokeswoman said.

Shirley Jeffers, of the Seattle-based Palestinian Human Rights Committee, said the demonstrators chose media offices because the Israeli-Palestinian issue "is not right now."

She complained that the local media pay too little attention to what local human rights groups have to say about the revolt in the Middle East.

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Europeans held in Lebanon 'could be swapped'

BITTERLIN said FRC officials told him they did not seek a ransom for the group but would call for its release with the other prisoners. Bitterlin was quoted as saying in Paris.

The FRC said on Nov. 8 that it seized the group from a yacht of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

It described them as Israeli spies.

Israel said it had no record of them and statements from Brussels and Paris said they were French and Belgian Roman Catholics.

to coordinate with the army.

"I know of cases UNRWA officials didn't coordinate as they should have and they didn't get in. It requires close coordination and the army calls the shots," the officer said on condition of anonymity, in keeping with military regulations.

On Sunday, the 60,000 residents of Jabalia, Gaza's largest refugee camp, endured the ninth day of a curfew that bars them from leaving their homes.

Mrs. Williams told the Associated Press the army has turned away U.N. trucks without giving reasons and failed to honour agreements to lift curfews to let supplies in.

"One day we were allowed to bring bread to the Bureij Camp but not fruit and vegetables. Another time the staff was allowed in, but no food. There are never any reasons given," Mrs. Williams said. "It's the unpredictability that's so difficult. We should not have to negotiate every time."

The Bureij camp area commander, a colonel named Avi, strongly denied any refugee was deprived of basic needs.

"Since the curfew, we have had no kerosene to cook food. We have no gas to heat our house," she said. "There is no milk. We are all very, very hungry."

AP reporter Jocelyn Noveck watched hundreds of Palestinian refugees stream into the main street of beach camp to get food when the army lifted an eight-day curfew for an hour Saturday.

Of complaints that the army stops U.N. trucks coming to stock supplies he said: "Whatever said that is just a lie. Everyone who has a problem, the problem is solved."

Mrs. Williams said the army informed her the curfew at Jaba bya and beach camps would be lifted for an hour four days ago, but an AP reporter saw soldiers turn back U.N. supply trucks filled with bread and vegetables from both camps.

The U.N. changed tactics Sunday and sent its trucks to each of Gaza's refugee camps for the entire day to see if they could get in. Trucks were able to enter at least two camps, Mrs. Williams said.

Mrs. Williams said the curfews have disrupted U.N. feeding programmes for 8,000 refugee children between the ages of 3 and 10 years old.

She said less than 20 per cent of the children eligible for daily meal of pita, canned beef and carrots receive it on any given day.

At Deir El Balah Camp, Aisha Madhi, 41, told the AP Sunday she had only half a sack of flour and a few tomatoes left to feed her family of 12.

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BITTERLIN said FRC officials told him they did not seek a ransom for the group but would call for its release with the other prisoners. Bitterlin was quoted as saying in Paris.

The FRC did not regard them as hostages like other Westerners held in Lebanon, he said.

"They are being held as travellers suspected of working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad and their freedom is linked to the situation in the occupied territories and South Lebanon," he added.

bombs and automatic rifles, aiming at a shack bar and at the check-in counters of TWA and El Al, the Israeli state carrier.

Sixteen people were killed, including three of the gunmen, and about 30 people were injured.

The trial indictment says four Israeli security agents as well as one Italian policeman opened fire after the attack began and that the gunmen were shot by the Israeli gunfire.

The gunmen who survived the attack, Mahmoud Ibrahim Khaled, is the only trial defendant in custody. The other two defendants are fugitives, including the alleged mastermind, Abu Nidal.

Jury rejects probe of Israeli security role in Rome airport

Finnish firm, JEA to build power sub-stations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Stromberg Company of Finland Monday signed a JD 2.75 million contract with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to draw up designs for and supervise the installation of equipment at power sub-stations to be constructed at a number of locations in the Kingdom.

Under the contract, Stromberg will install switchboard systems for the sub-stations at Shidieh, Azraq, Risha, Qaa Dasi, Safawi and Rweishid, and assist in expanding sub-stations in Irbid, Dasi and other regions.

The contract said that JEA will cooperate with Stromberg in implementing these projects.

Masri honours outgoing British ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taha Al Masri Monday hosted a banquet at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in honour of outgoing British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles to mark the end of his term here.

In his speech during the banquet, Masri praised the British envoy's efforts towards boosting relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Coles, in his address, also paid tribute to the distinguished relations between the two countries.

ARAMCO completes 1987 aid to occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Monday received more contributions for the benefit of the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule as a part of a national effort to assist charitable institutions in the occupied territories.

An announcement said that Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudiin received a cheque for \$105,000 from the Arab American Oil Company (ARAMCO), the second contribution from ARAMCO in two weeks.

ARAMCO representative in Amman Jamal Saraireh presented the cheque to Dudiin, as he did the first contribution of \$84,000 on Jan. 4.

With the new donation, ARAMCO has thus completed its 1987 contributions to charitable organisations, according to the announcement.

In addition, ARAMCO makes annual financial contributions to universities in the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs has set up a special team to design a list of priorities on which contributions can be spent.

Health Ministry to design plan for achieving WHO goal

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Monday at the Ministry of Health to discuss cooperation between the public and private sectors towards achieving "health for all people by the year 2000" — a goal set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Participants in the meeting chaired by the Health Minister Secretary-General Suleiman Subhi also discussed the topics considered at a WHO-sponsored seminar held recently in Bangkok on Jan. 6.

Drug trafficker sentenced to 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mahmoud Mohammad Mahmoud Soudou to five years in prison and fined him JD 500 for trafficking hashish. The sentence was endorsed by the general military governor.

Peres renews bid for elections

(Continued from page 1) called for new elections in the six weeks since anti-Israel protests erupted in the occupied territories.

Peres, speaking to reporters Monday, suggested a spring election but acknowledged: "It's quite complicated because at the moment there is no (parliamentary) majority either way."

"What I have heard here and what I've been told by many people confirms my view that the Israeli army has at times used pretty harsh measures and perhaps disproportionate measures in reacting to this violence," he told reporters.

"But please don't think I underestimate the difficulty of the situation which the army faces at the present time," he added. "It is a tragic and very difficult situation in the camps."

Peres said that even if the army quelled the protests, soldiers could not "provide a solution. It is for the politicians to do that."

But because of internal discord, "government policy is in effect paralysed," Peres said.

"I think we can do an election in 90 days at minimal cost," Peres said. "We cannot leave Israel without a political decision... whoever says there is no hurry needs to check his eyesight."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday that the PLO was ready to recognise Israel if the Jewish state was willing to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

Speaking on the American CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" programme, Arafat said: "Are they ready to accept my right to have my political rights and human rights? If they will accept, I will accept."

Speaking from Baghdad, Arafat brushed off an interviewer's

Qatranah, Hassa and Qweirah. The company will begin for warding equipment for these projects as of June 1988, according to the contract.

The projects are needed to supply electricity to the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company mines in Shidieh, Al Azraq water pumping stations, Al Risha gas fields and agricultural projects at Dasi and other regions.

The contract said that JEA will cooperate with Stromberg in implementing these projects.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday confers with Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research Adel 'Izz on scopes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technology (Petra photo)

Japan grants JD 105,000 in cultural aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan is to provide JD 105,000 worth of technical assistance to the Jordanian Department of Antiquities within the framework of a Japanese cultural grant aid.

Minister of Planning Taha Kanaan and the charge d'affaires at the Japanese embassy here, Shigeo Suzuki, signed and exchanged memoranda on the new grant through which the Japanese will supply equipment for the restoration of archaeological monuments in the country.

The equipment includes: a wheel excavator, a wheel loader, a compressor, a vibration roller and audio-visual aids.

Housing Bank staffers study low-cost housing development in 5 countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of eight professionals involved with private sector housing here and interested in reorienting their efforts towards building lower cost housing recently returned from a five-country tour to study successful developer-built housing projects abroad.

The group visited Bombay, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore. About half the cost of the trip was financed with \$47,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Members of the group were impressed with the well-built and well-managed housing for low-income families, but they noted that this service came at a high cost to the government. Two of the governments provided the land and heavily subsidised in-

terest rates, practices which, considering the high cost of land and tight ministerial budgets in Jordan, are not viable solutions here.

The trip brought some important new perspectives for at least one member of the Housing Bank staff. "We left Amman feeling modest about our accomplishments in this area, because we were aware that there are other institutions that have done more," commented the Housing Bank official, "but we returned feeling very proud of our experience and practice, because in many of the countries we visited, financial institutions were concentrating on just one line of business. They are now planning trips here in May to learn about diversification from us."

The group discovered that

there is a secondary mortgage market in Kuala Lumpur, a banking strategy that is widespread in the U.S., but not common in lower and middle-income countries. The Housing Bank will investigate the Kuala Lumpur experience in secondary mortgaging to see if it may have application here.

The group included five officials from the Jordan Housing Bank: Assistant to the Deputy General Manager for Banking Operations Abdulkader Dweik;

Manager of the Low Cost Housing Department Ibrahim Daher;

Manager of the Research Development Abdul Aziz Heikal;

Nabil Naseef from the Loan Office/Marketing and Planning;

and Loan and Credit Facilities Department Manager Ali Hamada.

Projects like the Al Wahadah Dam, and also through joint companies, the minister noted.

He expressed hope that the two countries would succeed in further promoting their bilateral cooperation in all fields.

On Syria's efforts to end the Lebanese crisis, the minister noted that his country had been exerting efforts to save Lebanon from further civil wars and unrest. Damascus has been mediating among warring factions, but "Israel and its lackeys and other hostile forces have been working in the opposite direction trying to thwart Syria's efforts and cause a fragmentation of Lebanon's territory."

He emphasised that despite the obstacles Syria would continue its efforts to bring about a reconciliation among the various Lebanese parties and help restore security and stability in Lebanon.

On Jordanian-Syrian relations, Salman said Amman-Damascus ties were "characterised with mutual understanding and coordination and brotherly cooperation in bolstering pan-Arab action and confronting the Israeli enemy."

Jordan and Syria are also coordinating their efforts in economic, social and cultural fields through agreements and joint

efforts to end the conflict in the region.

But "Israel realises that certain hostile forces are trying to ruin its attempts towards bringing about peace and trying to involve the Arab Gulf states in the war."

And he reiterated that the PLO was the Palestinians' representative in talks with Israel.

"Each people should be allowed to choose their own leaders," Siniara said. "The Palestinians should be represented by the Palestinian representative, which is the PLO."

Speaking more conciliatory than Arafat, Siniara said "autonomy" for Palestinians "could lead eventually after a couple of years to negotiations between the state of Israel and the PLO, ending as a Palestinian state emerging as a result of those negotiations."

In the CBS programme, Arafat also said he accepts all U.N. resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and offered to negotiate with Israel at a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference without preconditions.

"I am offering a challenge to this Israeli military junta, to accept my peace projects... to (sit) around a table at an international conference... If you want peace to be implemented in this area, this peace has to go through the U.N... to go all together without preconditions to the international conference."

"Agreement on these points is bound to help to remove all obstacles that impede a return of normal relations between Syria and the PLO leadership, and can ensure Syria's support for any Palestinian movement's struggle against Israel."

Information Minister Ali Hasan Al Shaer said in a statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, that the aid would be given to

the United Nations immediately for distribution to the brotherly Palestinian people.

Djibouti protested Monday against Israeli actions against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Moumin Babdon Farah read a statement to diplomats saying the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was a reminder that nothing had been settled in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"These acts show international public opinion the true nature of the racist occupation and its aim, which is to exterminate the Palestinian people, expel them from their territory and efface the roots of their existence," the statement said.

On his country's relations with

Jordan and Egypt study ways to increase cooperation in scientific research, technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday conferred with Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research Adel 'Izz on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in scientific research and technology.

The meeting at the prime minister's office was attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh.

'Izz, who arrived here Sunday for an official visit met earlier with Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddine Al Assad to discuss bilateral cooperation in scientific research.

Adel 'Izz briefed the Egyptian minister on Jordan's higher education and scientific research, noting that 56,000 students are currently attending higher education institutions in the Kingdom.

He also stressed the need for promoting the level and scientific teaching in Arab countries, which he said was essential for development and prosperity.

The Egyptian minister briefed 'Izz on Egypt's scientific research programmes and scopes of bilateral cooperation in conducting research.

'Izz later met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, along with the directors of the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Natural Resources Authority. The two sides reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in energy, tech-

nology and scientific research.

Egyptian minister meets with Anani

Also Monday, 'Izz met with Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani for talks on implementing the protocol for scientific cooperation signed between Jordan and Egypt in 1987 and progress on a number of joint scientific projects.

Anani reviewed the society's development, research programmes, as well as its cooperation with Arab and foreign scientific institutions.

'Izz then reviewed the activities and achievements of scientific research centres in Egypt.

The Egyptian minister and Anani also discussed RSS energy research and production projects.

In addition, Secretary-General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology Ahmad Badran briefed 'Izz on the council's structure and its national goals.

Zarqa police crack down on beggars

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa police are currently conducting a wide-scale campaign to rid the city of beggars. According to local officials, most of the beggars are being turned over to the social development department here.

The Japanese visitors will also meet with officials at the ministries of planning, public works, housing and water and irrigation to discuss these projects.

Beggars in Zarqa requires close cooperation between all concerned parties, particularly the Ministry of Social Development, according to Qatarnah.

He said that committees should be formed to handle the problem, and charitable and voluntary societies should be enlisted to provide needy families with food and clothing, in an effort to prevent begging.

Director of the Zarqa Social Development Department Hamdullah Abul Samen said that his department had already begun a social and economic conditions study of all beggars brought in by the police.

Zarqa Municipal Council Chairman Badri Bahuddin said that the municipality would be willing to contribute to the effort to remove all beggars from the city.

Post Office Savings Fund to expand loan operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Post Office Savings Fund (POSF) will soon open its doors to government employees, retired civil servants and army personnel to take out loans for covering education costs, according to Rifai. He noted that students can pay back their loans over long periods — 20 years in some cases — provided that the students' parents save with the POSF for at least two years.

According to Rifai, the POSF, established in 1966, offers a grace period, whereby students can

pay back their loans over long periods, whereby students can

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Is nothing sacred?

AS the United Nations holds its breath in anticipation of the report of U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding on his fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli violence against the Palestinians accelerated as Israeli troops stormed the Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques during prayer time Friday. This latest desecration of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem was condemned worldwide, particularly in that it added a religious overtone to an already politically overcharged situation in the occupied territories.

It was most commendable of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to voice his deploration of Israel's latest blatant attack on a religious site in Jerusalem, preceded by desecrations of Muslim and Christian holy places. Lest we forget, the Holy Sepulchre was repeatedly desecrated by the Israelis from the time they seized military control of the Holy City. Likewise, Al Aqsa Mosque was literally put to the torch by an Israeli zealot in 1968.

All in all, Israel's record as a trusted custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem has been anything but reassuring. Furthermore, Israel's repeated violation of the sanctity of the Muslim and Christian holy places surely inflames animosity between the three main monotheistic religions, thus endangering the atmosphere of tolerance among these faiths, regionally and internationally.

We hope, therefore, that Goulding's report to the U.N. includes a call for the establishment of an international regime for Jerusalem as a means for protecting the religious shrines in the Holy City. Anything short of that would run the risk of leading to a breakdown in religious tolerance and harmony. Such a breakdown would surely produce profound and dangerous repercussions throughout the world. That is why we in the region expect the international community to accord due attention to the issue of Jerusalem. Now is the time to press forward, strongly, to ensure that the sanctity of the Holy City is preserved for Muslims, Christians and Jews alike.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Forty years of illusion

THE current uprising in the occupied Arab territory comes on the eve of Israel's preparations for celebrating its 40th anniversary. The uprising which has now entered its sixth week is placing the Israeli society and its leadership face to face with the illusion which is destroying their future and frustrating their aspirations. The uprising is making it clear for Israel that after 40 years of occupation, the Israeli society finds itself in square one, trying to make their feet firm on the land they have usurped from the Arabs, and confronting the Arab people whom the Zionists are trying to subdue by force. Since 1948, the Israeli entity has been relying on illusions and on imagining that the land they occupied is theirs through power and force of arms, and that Israel's presence has become a fact of life that cannot be questioned. Israel has been imagining that with it might it can never face any defeat and with its force it can impose its will on the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: The ever-regretful Shultz

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has come forward to offer his country's apologies to Israel for its stand at the U.N. Security Council which urged Israel to rescind its expulsion orders against the Palestinians. Shultz's move came amid the ongoing revolt in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip where the Arab people continue to face Israel's terrorism and repression which was condemned by the Security Council and the world at large. Shultz's apology to Israel resembles a repentant person wishing to express sorrow for not abiding by the wishes of Zionism and Israel at a time when the whole world is condemning Israel's actions. The Israelis who realised that the United States will finally come to their support and apologise for its behaviour did not feel embarrassed in going ahead with its plans in the occupied territories and to disregard the Security Council resolutions. We consider Israel's disregard to the Security Council's resolutions and the international community's will as a result of the wide-scale support the Jewish state continues to receive from American leaders. We call for urgent support to be extended to the Palestinian people and we also urge Arab countries to find means for stemming America's total support for Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab land.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for world action

THE continued Arab uprising in the occupied territories call on the world community in general and the Arab people in particular to speed up work for a political solution for the Middle East problem, ensuring the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. The situation in the Israeli-held lands should prompt all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to take action now and demand the convening of an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices. The situation warrants speedy action in view of the present Israeli escalation of its terrorist campaign against our brothers in the occupied land. The uprising against the Israeli occupation opens the way for the world community to work seriously towards re-establishing peace in our region. In the meantime, we believe that the struggle of our brothers in the face of Israel's repression will teach the Israelis a lesson, and will make them wake up to the fact that they cannot continue to impose their will on others.

The View from Second Circle

Who hears the message of the stones?

THE sustained show of resistance by the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza during the past six weeks is not, in itself, surprising. It was only a matter of time until the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation rose up in such a display of nationalism and anger. The lessons of South Lebanon have been learned; only when the enemy is confronted in a dramatic and sustained manner will the enemy calculate the true cost of occupation, and then consider it more cost efficient to end, rather than to perpetuate. Of course, we have not reached that stage — yet.

The initial Israeli response — typical of the psyche of the occupier — has been to strike with a hard fist, to insist that violence will never achieve political goals, and to revive the notion of transitional autonomy that is the centrepiece of the Camp David accords. It is one of history's more grotesque ironies that someone such as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should presume to tell the Palestinians that they will never achieve their nationalistic goals through violence — when he is the living embodiment of how one achieves nationalistic goals through violence, terror and militarism.

There is no need to seek profound explanations for what is happening in the occupied Palestinian lands. A population that has been militarily occupied, culturally denied and politically disenfranchised has reached the limit of its endurance and its patience, and has reacted in a very logical and normal manner. It behoves the rest of the world to recognise the essential significance of what is happening. That an occupied people seeks liberty, that a Palestinian nation seeks to be born.

Much of the discussion about the uprising, in Israel, the Arab World and abroad, has missed the point. It is irrelevant whether the uprising has been instigated by indigenous elements, the PLO, Arab states or any other parties; we should not get caught in the false and peripheral debate about who are the winners and losers from the Palestinian uprising. It has been a long-term goal of Israel and the United States to portray the Palestinians as luckless folk who have historically lacked a decisive leadership. The corollary to this attitude is that whenever a dramatic development takes place in the land of Palestine, it should be attributed either to mindless terrorists or to a confused Palestinian population that is leaderless.

For decades, Israel and the United States have tried every conceivable gimmick to avoid dealing with the Palestinians as a people who view themselves as a unified national unit with national rights. Faced with the current uprising, the United States and Israel maintain the same attitude: They focus on the violence as a cause of the conflict, rather than appreciating it as a symptom of the deeper problems of unresolved national rights.

The fact is, the children of Palestine have taught everybody a useful lesson. The question is, how many people will heed a lesson, and respond in a rational and constructive manner?

For the Palestinians and the other Arabs, the lesson is that unified and forceful action is the most effective means of political gain. It is instructive that during the past six weeks, there has been unanimous support in the Arab World for the Palestinian uprising, the Amal militia in Lebanon has ended its blockade of Palestinian refugee camps, the various Palestinian groups in Palestine and further afield have rallied around the stone-throwing children, the entire world has condemned Israel's harsh tactics, and the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel have rallied to support their brethren in the West Bank and Gaza.

In such a context, it becomes meaningless to talk about the role or influence of the PLO, or the political balance among the various new indigenous leadership groups that people have identified within the occupied territories. Why should the Palestinians be viewed as a constituency that is up for grabs? The truth is that with the indigenous Palestinian leadership in Palestine either jailed or deported, and with the PLO facing severe operational constraints inside and outside Palestine, the Palestinian people have erupted in a spontaneous expression of their identity and their national aspirations. The short-term disagreements and tactical divergencies among Palestinian groups, or between the PLO and various Arab governments, should not overshadow the more important reality that the children of the West Bank and Gaza have, for the moment, assumed the position of leadership in the Arab World. All the rest of us — governments, movements, individuals — watch and cheer. The children lead.

For the Israelis and the Americans, the lessons of today's events should be that the Palestinian people will accept neither submission nor oblivion. It is a lesson that should be familiar to both Americans and Israelis, whose national experiences have embodied a determination to achieve liberty against formidable odds. Why is it that the United States and Israel cannot appreciate the manifestation of Palestinian national identity, when they have both shown the world what it means to forge, to sustain and to exercise a national identity?

In due course, given the reality of human nature and the short-term power of Israel's state militarism, the Palestinian rebellion will subside. That is when the true test of Israel and the Israeli people will begin. It is not surprising that the initial reaction of most Israelis has been to support the government's tough policy. Such is the biology of fear. But what will the Israelis and the American government do when they realise that this winter's uprising is not an isolated event, and that the Palestinians will wave their flag over and over again — like Memphis, Da Nang, Soweto and Gdańsk — until there is justice, sovereignty and security for the Palestinians, in Palestine?

Thoughtful Israelis and honest Israeli leaders — and I am convinced that both exist, and one day will prevail in Israel — will

realise and declare publicly that Israeli militarism is not the appropriate response to Palestinian nationalism. The Israeli general elections later this year may provide an opportunity for such people to assert themselves, as a limited number of Israelis asserted during the 1962 invasion of Lebanon that militarism and occupation were not the right way to deal with the perceived threat from South Lebanon. When the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance fought the Israelis in South Lebanon, Israelis finally withdrew.

Faced with the less militaristic uprising of the Palestinians in Palestine, will Israelis react in a similar manner later this year? We shall soon find out. There will come a historical moment and opportunity in the modern history of Israel when the Jewish people will have to decide if theirs is a universal or an exclusivist ethic — if the morality of Moses and the patriarchy of Abraham is the shared heritage of all Semites, or the privileged right of only one branch of the Semitic family. This year may offer just such an opportunity. The Israeli people will either seize it, and rejoice in a celebration of a universal ethic of humanism and compassion; or they will reject it, and opt instead for perpetual fear, and eternal militarism.

If a positive gesture, it seems to me, that PLO leader Yasser Arafat should repeat this week that the PLO is prepared to negotiate with Israel on the basis of all United Nations resolutions on Palestine, including U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Instead of brushing aside such overtures, Israeli and American leaders would do well to respond in an equally rational, conciliatory and moderate manner. The Palestinians and the rest of the Arabs have clearly signalled their willingness to come to terms with the reality of Israel, at the same moment as the Palestinians have reaffirmed — with stones and burning tyres — that Israel can only hope to live as a normal state if it, too, comes to terms with the requisites of Palestinian national rights.

The uprising we witness today comes exactly 50 years after the great Palestinian strike of 1936-39. The children throwing stones and burning tyres today are the grand-children of those Palestinians who went on strike in Palestine in 1936-39. Will the world heed the enduring lessons of history — that liberty is indivisible, and a birthright of all peoples — or will the world meekly acquiesce in the show of American and Israeli contempt that seeks to deny the Palestinians the universal right of self-determination and national dignity?

That, in its simplest terms, is the message of the stones. It is the desire of all Palestinians, the political platform of the PLO, and the national objective of all Arab states. Where are the Israelis who would signal to us that they have heard the message, that they can respond, and that they can envisage a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians live in peace, security, sovereignty and dignity in their ancient land?

Israelis, Palestinians debate peace

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — After five weeks of violent protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli and Palestinian leaders have begun debating political initiatives to break the Middle East peace deadlock.

The future of Israeli rule over 1.5 million hostile Palestinians in the areas occupied in the 1967 Middle East war looks like being the main issue of Israeli general elections due in November.

There is so far little sign of new ideas on either side.

Despite renewed debate on peace options, most Israelis seem united in rejecting any talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, broke with consensus in the national unity government this weekend by suggesting Israel should seek talks with Jordan through an international peace

conference without waiting for the uprising to end.

"Negotiations while unrest continues is much better than... only (stone-throwing) before the television cameras of the world. The worst thing is unrest without negotiations," he said.

Israelis have shot 39 Palestinians and wounded more than 250 in the uprising which began on December 9.

Both Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Bloc, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leading Labour Party hawk, have insisted the uprising must be suppressed before there can be any talk of a solution.

Shamir then wants to revive talks on granting limited autonomy to residents of the occupied territories under the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David peace accords.

Shamir and the Likud insist Israel retain sovereignty over the entire area and remain adamantly opposed to an international conference, which they see as a trap to force Israel to hand back occupied Arab land.

Egypt, which broke off the autonomy talks in 1982, and Palestinian leaders have rejected any revival of the defunct negotiations.

Rabin, alternating stern warnings to the Palestinians with offers of eventual negotiations, said he hoped the uprising would throw up a new local Palestinian leadership that would take up the challenge of peace talks with Israel.

He was rebuffed at the weekend when the Arab mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, seen by Israelis as an open-minded, moderate, insisted Israel must talk to the PLO.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat offered for real peace, because there is a consensus among the Palestinian people, the Jordanians and Israel and all else, almost, to make peace with Israel."

He said negotiations would be based on exchanging territory for peace under U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 calling for secure borders for all Middle East states and urging Israel to withdraw from territories captured in the 1967 war.

Mavericks in both major Israeli parties have seized on the latest unrest to call for radical solutions to the future of the occupied territories.

His call followed efforts by a handful of peace activists on Likud's central committee, led by Moshe Amrav, to explore direct peace talks with the PLO, round-

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ly condemned by Shamir.

Labour cabinet minister Ezer Weizman, one of the architects of the Israeli-Egyptian peace, has demanded immediate talks to prepare an international conference with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation he says could include supporters of the PLO.

"If we manage to get a peace offensive going, some of the Arab leaders may be able to intervene with the Arab youngsters and quiet them down on the grounds that their future is being discussed."

It. If we are not careful, we will have to face much worse upheavals," Weizman told the Jerusalem Post.

"If we manage to get a peace offensive going, some of the Arab leaders may be able to intervene with the Arab youngsters and quiet them down on the grounds that their future is being discussed."

Afghanistan could also remove a stumbling block in relations since Riyadh is a major backer of Mujahedin rebels.

China's sale of Silkworm missiles to Iran — another of Saudi Arabia's traditional foes in the region — has led to U.N. pressure on Peking to halt deliveries and diplomats believe Saudi Arabia has also added its voice to those pleas.

Firm signs that the Soviet Union will withdraw troops from

Sale of Saudi wheat to the East signals political shift

in the Middle East has always lent an uncomfortable air to that relationship.

Riyadh has never had diplomatic relations with communist China, but recently sold Peking 300,000 tonnes of wheat. And last week it announced the shipment of 25,000 tonnes to the Soviet Union as part of a 50,000-tonne deal.

Diplomats say the sales can be

partly explained by harsh economic realities — Saudi Arabia is each year producing about 2.3 million tonnes of wheat and with domestic consumption no more than 900,000 tonnes is desperately seeking export markets.

With so much excess production on their hands and silo capacity limited, the kingdom's planners are under pressure to sell before the new harvest is gathered in March.

Wheat traders in London reckon Saudi wheat, hard and flint-like, could sell for around \$90 per tonne from Saudi ports, broadly in line with world market prices.

But that recoups only a fraction of the true cost of over \$500 per tonne which subsidies cost the Saudi government.

Diplomats say sales appear to be part of a deliberate policy of

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Najwa Saadawi sums up the thoughts of Nawal Saadawi (right)

"I WAS committed to what I thought was right, and I was dismissed from my work, my books were censored and I was put in jail. They tried to ruin my reputation. When I supported women they said I loved women, when I supported men they said I loved men. They branded me immoral, hysterical and neurotic."

These are the words of the leading and controversial Egyptian writer and feminist, Nawal Saadawi. Here, she contends, is an experience shared by many committed to the cause of women in a male dominated society.

In a recent trip to Jordan, Dr. Saadawi, a specialist in mental and public health by profession, stressed that such risks must be taken by those who want to introduce change. "No change is devoid of sacrifices, and many obstacles will be placed in the way by those who benefit from the status quo."

A founding member and president of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association, a non-governmental organisation affiliated with the United Nations, Dr. Saadawi pointed out that although women make up half the population, their causes have not received their due attention over hundreds of years because "women lack the power to overturn the dominating patriarchal system."

Dr. Saadawi believes that the evolution of oppression came hand in hand with the evolution of the patriarchal class system. "A system marked by the supremacy of man is another form of oppression," she said, noting that political groups in the Arab World which call for the liberation of societies, have not fathomed the patriarchal class system. "Political groups concerned with class oppression of the peasants and working class, give only lip service to the liberation of women and have relegated their issues to a secondary position. They have not realised that the patriarchal system not only oppresses women, but also men

"We pay anyway to be wives, so why not pay and be free?"

who do not belong to the ruling class."

She maintains that the oppression of men is similar to the oppression of women. The only difference is that in addition to being oppressed politically, economically, socially and culturally, women are oppressed in the family.

Since the authority in the marriage institution rests in the hands of the male members of the family or clan, in most marriages the man possesses the woman while the woman does not possess the man. It becomes his right to own her mind in that she must follow what he says, and her body in that no one else can touch her.

She points out that women are not allowed to keep their male



A pebble in a stagnant lake

friends after they get married, and are only allowed to associate with women. "To have men friends does not mean you have sex with them, but it is the woman's right to have men friends."

"A woman is not only a body, or someone to work for her husband and children; and marriage is not supposed to be the woman's only ambition in life, but rather that man and marriage are part of the woman's life."

In a separate lecture delivered at the invitation of the Arab Women Graduates Club, Dr. Saadawi said that marriage should be built on truth, choice and independence and most importantly equality.

However, as a rule most women love a man because men provide them with security, she explained, adding that marriages built on material or financial values are not sound marriages. To her "love is an exchange of thoughts and emotions... knowing someone."

"How can you live with someone who is a stranger? You should know if he is just or if he is a tyrant. If you are convinced of this person's thinking and personality then get married or else marriage becomes a process of buying and selling," she advised. A packed hall at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation earlier this month. Dr. Saadawi.

Women must also teach men to be fathers. "Usually the husband has power, but has no responsibility for his wife or children. He may after 20 years of marriage find someone younger or prettier than his wife, and divorce her leaving her with nothing."

Working to change the status quo will not be an easy task because "our society is not used to differences in opinions or dis-

agreements." However, Dr. Saadawi believes that building strength to overcome the patriarchal system comes through knowledge and solidarity, stressing that this kind of maturity does not happen overnight.

"It is a step by step process which must start with self-liberation," she stated. According to Dr. Saadawi "through reading and being creative, women could find ways to free themselves from the domination of the fathers, mothers, teachers and from the image created for them by society." She suggests for women to discuss instead of just obeying. "No one is above criticism, and the criticism must start with ourselves," she said.

When women take the first step in seeing themselves as complete human beings, the image of themselves, their value systems, attitudes, even the way a woman dresses will change, she said. This would give women the courage to do in public what they do in secret and not live contradictory lives.

In a later interview Dr. Saadawi referred to her own personal experience. Divorced twice, and married three times, she stated emphatically that she was willing to be single all her life rather than being an oppressed successful wife. "We pay anyway to be wives, so why not pay and be

free?" she asks.

She paid more than most for her beliefs when the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat tried to silence her by putting her in prison. Regardless, Dr. Saadawi said she had no regrets.

"Sadat was not pleased with my articles and speeches to the U.N. on his open door policy and unemployment and how women have been forced out of the labour force, but I'm so committed to what I've done, that I was sure that when I leave jail I would continue my work and whatever I am going to write about it will be against the male dominated patriarchal system, that is against the present system."

Her book *Memoirs in Prison* describes her experience in prison which she said enlightened her. For "in prison there is a lot of room for evaluation of life and finding the essence of personal value. Some people regret and apologize, and end up losing themselves or succumbing to mental diseases, while others find their mistakes and correct them."

She was released from prison after serving three months when Sadat was assassinated.

Dr. Saadawi considers her experience in prison as another notch in widening her knowledge, and consequently giving her more power. The support that women give other women in their struggle to liberate themselves is another form of power.

Citing the example of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association, established in Egypt in 1982 with branches throughout the Arab World, she said "when you have unity you have power. You can make women think and rethink."

Although most of the members of the association are women, twenty per cent of those registered are men. "Mental attitude and commitment to overthrowing the patriarchal system is what is

needed to bring about change."

She believes that if everyone approves of you, "you are not saying anything. We must have people with and against us to have change."

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important to us," she said, adding "we are historical, social feminists. We depend on our history; we are against class, and should not distinguish class oppression and patriarchal oppression."

The association tries through seminars and conferences, joint projects with UNESCO, a small feminist publishing house, a feminist theatre and the newly published magazine *The Women of the Future* "to change the woman's picture of herself. Society has taught us to live for others, now we want to live for ourselves," she said.

Understanding reality was pointed out as another important step towards change. The difference between being a revolutionary and a madperson was emphasised by Dr. Saadawi. "A revolutionary understands reality, a madperson does not." For example some revolutionaries prefer not to deal with religion or deny it completely. Religion is part of the social reality whether there is belief in God or not, she said, adding: "Everyone has a different way of looking at Islam and of explaining religion for their purposes, and I explain religion for my benefit." She believes that religion advocates equality and social justice between people.

Once reality is understood, step by step change becomes easier. However, Dr. Saadawi stressed that success in work plays an important role in encouraging women to take the step and to speak out for their rights. "I did not collapse or develop mental diseases because I was protected, and my protection came from the strength I had built by educating myself; ceaseless work and learning from others, in addition to success in

"Only when you take yourself, your job and your cause seriously, and only then will people take you seriously."

medicine, writing and women organisations," she said.

Even those who stood against Dr. Saadawi respected her. "Only when you take yourself, your job and your cause seriously, and only then will people take you seriously." For those women who do not work, Dr. Saadawi advised them to struggle, to pursue their education and to find work.

Dr. Saadawi considers the controversies which surrounded her as positive since "our society is like a stagnant lake, you have to throw pebbles in to stir it." She believes that if everyone approves of you, "you are not saying anything. We must have people with and against us to have change."

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Seoul appeals to N. Korea, Cuba to reconsider stand on Olympics

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean Olympic Committee Monday appealed to North Korea and its close ally Cuba to abandon their boycott of this summer's games.

The appeal came despite deteriorating relations between North and South with Seoul last week accused Pyongyang of destroying one of its airliners with 15 people on board.

It put an alleged North Korean spy on television to confess to planting a bomb on the plane last November, and has launched a diplomatic offensive to punish Pyongyang.

But Olympic committee chief Kim Chang-Ha said in a statement: "We particularly call on North Korea and Cuba to change their positions even now and participate in the Seoul Olympics to help realize the hopes and dreams of mankind to make the world one family."

The committee's appeal came despite expiry of the deadline for Olympic acceptances at midnight Geneva time Sunday.

A record 161 countries have

accepted invitations to the games, which begin next September.

Albama, Ethiopia, Nicaragua

and the Seychelles are the only other members of the 167-member IOC not to accept the invitation to Seoul.

The Seoul Olympic Games will become a great festival of harmony for all humanity, transcending political ideologies and helping end wars, disputes and conflicts," Kim said.

Pyongyang announced a boycott of the games because talks on making it a co-host broke down.

Last Friday Cuban President Fidel Castro said his country would not attend the games because the political turmoil in

South Korea "would not offer the healthiest and most honourable conditions for Olympic Games."

Meanwhile, Cuba's athletes expressed support for Havana's decision to stay away from the Olympic Games in Seoul in a letter to President Fidel Castro published in a government newspaper Sunday.

"We, the athletes that make up the national sports' preselection, meeting in general assembly, firmly back the decision adopted by our government and Olympic committee to not attend the Olympic Games in Seoul if the present conditions persist."

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Monday the door was still open for North Korea to accept an IOC compromise and attend the Seoul Olympics.

Samaranch told a news conference that a record 161 countries had met the IOC's deadline of Sunday midnight for accepting invitations to the Seoul Games, which open in September.

Samaranch said: "The IOC still hopes to reach an agreement with North Korea. One door has been closed with the January 17 deadline. But we will be happy to reopen the door as soon as North Korea accepts our offer."

Paris-Dakar rally marred by another serious crash

BAMAKO, Mali (R) — The Paris-Dakar motor Rally, its future clouded after a heavy death and accident toll, was marred by another serious accident during a timed stage across western Mali.

Jean-Claude Huger, one of the French President Francois Mitterrand's motorcycle escort who is riding for a national police team

Graf cruises into open play-offs

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — World No. 1 Steffi Graf continued her juggernaut run through the \$1.9-million Australian Open tennis championships Monday. Australian Anne Mather crushed fourth-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States.

Graf, of West Germany, took just 55 minutes to defeat 13th-seeded Swede Catarina Lindqvist 6-0, 7-5 to advance to the month's final of the first Grand Slam event.

Graf, playing at whirlwind pace, took just 16 minutes to breeze through the first set, but Lindqvist put up sterner resistance in the second.

The 18-year-old Graf, aiming for her first Australian title, later admitted she sometimes becomes bored when she wins easily. She has dropped just 13 games in

her opening four matches.

Graf, the hardest hitter in women's tennis, now will play two-time titlist and defending champion Hana Mandlikova of Australia.

Minister, 24, ranked 38th in the world, took just 61 minutes to dispatch Shriver, who had won warm-up tournaments in Brisbane and Sydney earlier in the month, but found her movement restricted by a recurring groin strain.

Jordan's soccer team blanks UAE

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national soccer team blanked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) team 2-0 Monday in a friendly match in Manama, Bahrain.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hugging fine in Paris

LONDON (R) — Hugging is fine in France but contact in Britain and Ireland will not start until after the opening whistle in rugby union's five nations competition. The five nations committee wanted to ban the tradition of players gathering in a circle and embracing while the national anthems are played but after French resistance it was ruled on Sunday that rugby players can carry on hugging — in Paris. "The haka has become unnatural in recent seasons, but we felt it was an inappropriate way to behave during the anthems," said Bob Weighill, secretary of the five nations committee. "But we were unable to convince the French federation, which say that their crowd expected their players to gather in a circle and their players wanted to do so." So, as they run matches in Paris, players can hug there, but in Britain and Ireland there will be a formal line-up." The annual five nations competition, which began on Saturday, is contested by France, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Pate winner in golf tourney

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Steve Pate of the United States was declared the winner of golf's Tournament of Champions Sunday after a series of rain squalls washed out the fourth round and reduced play to 54 holes. Compatriot Dave Hill, who led through three rounds of the seniors' competition of this event that brings together only the winners of 1987 PGA tour titles, also was named the winner of the over-50 section of the tournament. Play had been delayed four times, once by hail, before Mike Shea of the PGA and Allard Roca, tournament chairman for host La Costa, cancelled the final round. Only 12 men in the total field of 50 had completed play when the round was washed out. All Sunday scores were erased. That made Pate, who had a one-shot lead at the end of Saturday's third round, the winner of the \$90,000 first prize. Hill won \$30,000 off his one-shot lead at the end of three rounds.

English club to sign Soviet defencer

LONDON (AP) — English First Division club Oxford United is bidding to become the first team from this country to hire a Soviet player by signing international defencer Vladimir Bessonov. Oxford manager Maurice Evans has reportedly had talks with Soviet soccer representatives about the 23-year-old Dynamo Kiev player who hopes to bring to England for a fee of around £250,000. "Prices for good players here are sky high at the moment and the plus about continental stars is that you get value for money and they are available now," Evans said. "We need to look abroad of find real quality and Russian players are becoming more readily available now. The Russians have tremendous technical ability but the problem is watching them so I have asked Bessonov to come over for a month for me to have a look at him." Bessonov, who played in the Mexico World Cup finals in 1986, has won more than 60 international caps.

Hearing into drug case appeal begins

LONDON (AP) — Swiss runner Sandra Gasser began her appeal Monday into a two-year international for alleged drug abuse, and one of her party said there were "important points to raise." "I cannot say how the meeting will go," Swiss Track Federation (STF) Secretary Hansjorg Wirs told the Associated Press. "We will present our case and see what happens. But, as we have always said, we have important points to raise." The hearing was taking place at the London headquarters of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) the world governing body for track and field. It was expected to last well into the afternoon. Gasser's case against the ban followed her positive drug test at the World Track and Field Championship last summer where she placed third in the 1,500 metres final in Rome. The IAAF annulled her bronze medal and barred her after finding traces of the banned steroid, methyltestosterone, in two urine samples. The middle distance runner, in a civil suit filed in October, sought a court injunction lifting the ban. Just before Christmas, a Swiss judge gave her permission to run.

Badminton champs richest ever

LONDON (AP) — The all-England badminton championships became the richest event in the sport's history Monday, when organisers signed a million-pound (\$1.77 million) deal with the sponsors. The five-year agreement between the Badminton Association of England and the Japanese sports equipment firm, Yonex, includes a 350 per cent increase in prize money to £70,000 (\$124,000) for the event, staged each year at the Wembley arena. The men's singles champion will earn £5,500 (\$9,700) while the women's champion will take home £3,500 (\$6,200) at the next championships from March 14-20. Officials said the remainder of the money will cover administrative and promotional costs.

Kvernmo wins Houston Marathon

HOUSTON (R) — Norway's Geir Kvernmo pulled away from the pack after 21 kilometres and held off a strong challenge from Salvador Garcia of Mexico to win the 16th annual Houston Marathon. Kvernmo, runner-up last year to South African Derrick May, qualified for the Norwegian Olympic team with a time of two hours 11 minutes 44 seconds. Garcia was second just six seconds behind in 2:11:50 and Michael Scheffy of West Germany finished third in 2:14:15.

IOC door still open

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Monday the door was still open for North Korea to accept an IOC compromise and attend the Seoul Olympics.

It put an alleged North Korean spy on television to confess to planting a bomb on the plane last November, and has launched a diplomatic offensive to punish Pyongyang.

But Olympic committee chief Kim Chang-Ha said in a statement: "We particularly call on North Korea and Cuba to change their positions even now and participate in the Seoul Olympics to help realize the hopes and dreams of mankind to make the world one family."

The committee's appeal came despite expiry of the deadline for Olympic acceptances at midnight Geneva time Sunday.

A record 161 countries have

accepted invitations to the games, which begin next September.

Albama, Ethiopia, Nicaragua

and the Seychelles are the only other members of the 167-member IOC not to accept the invitation to Seoul.

Samaranch told a news conference that a record 161 countries had met the IOC's deadline of Sunday midnight for accepting invitations to the Seoul Games, which open in September.

Samaranch said: "The IOC still hopes to reach an agreement with North Korea. One door has been closed with the January 17 deadline. But we will be happy to reopen the door as soon as North Korea accepts our offer."

Paris-Dakar rally marred by another serious crash

BAMAKO, Mali (R) — The Paris-Dakar motor Rally, its future clouded after a heavy death and accident toll, was marred by another serious accident during a timed stage across western Mali.

Jean-Claude Huger, one of the French President Francois Mitterrand's motorcycle escort who is riding for a national police team

in the rally, crashed his BMW bike Sunday during the 378-km special stage between Timbuktu and Bamako, organisers said.

They said Huger was in a deep coma after the accident and would be flown back to Paris during the evening.

The 31-year-old Huger was

30th in the motorcycle standings

in the rally, crashed his BMW bike Sunday during the 378-km special stage between Timbuktu and Bamako, organisers said.

Overall leader Ari Vatanen of Finland finished sixth, while compatriot Juha Kankkonen, also driving a Peugeot works car, held on to second place overall despite finishing 50th in the stage.

The rally ends Friday in Dakar, the capital of France's former west African colony of Senegal.

Meanwhile, the 18th stage of the rally was delayed two hours Monday after rally leader Ari Vatanen's car was stolen and held for \$31,000 ransom, organisers said.

Witnesses told Malian authorities that they saw the Peugeot 405, a prototype car covered in bright publicity stickers, crossing a bridge over the Niger River early Monday. Mechanics had worked on repairing the car until just before dawn before parking it at the guarded rally bivouac near where they slept.

Jean Todt, director of the Peugeot Talbot sport team, said he received a phone call at his hotel room demanding the money.

"They asked me to come in a taxi with the ransom to a place that I did not understand the name of," Todt said.

NHL STANDINGS

Wales Conference

Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia Flyers	23	17	6	52	158	162
New York Islanders	22	17	5	49	177	158
New Jersey Devils	21	20	5	47	158	167
Washington Capitals	21	21	5	47	160	149
Pittsburgh Penguins	17	20	9	43	176	184
New York Rangers	17	24	6	40	180	180

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston Bruins	27	16	5	59	178	150
Montreal Canadiens	24	12	10	58	169	142
Buffalo Sabres	20	19	7	47	149	176
Hartford Whalers	17	20	7	41	132	144
Quebec Nordiques	19	21	2	40	153	156

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	22	17	5	49	177	148
St. Louis Blues	18	22	5	41	146	159
Chicago Black Hawks	19	24	3	41	165	189
Minnesota North Stars	14	25	8	36	154	189
Toronto Maple Leafs	14	24	7	35	166	186

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton Oilers	27	13	6	60	208	151
Calgary Flames	27	13	5	59	222	164
Winnipeg Jets	18	20	6	42	163	177
Vancouver Canucks	16					

Social Security Corporation lends ministry JD 3 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) will grant JD 3 million to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to help it carry out electrification projects in rural regions of the kingdom, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the loan will be repaid over six years.

Water storage at King Talal Dam rises to 33m cubic metres

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total amount of water stored at King Talal Dam is estimated at 33.5 million cubic metres, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Mohammad Bani Hani.

He was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily as saying that the total capacity of the reservoir is 80 million cubic metres of water and that in the past four days the reservoir a total of four million cubic metres.

The paper quoted Bani Hani as saying that the Wadi Al Arab Dam now stores about 10.5 million cubic metres of water out of a capacity of 20 million cubic metres.

Jordan's consumer price index registers slight drop in 1987

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Statistics has reported a slight drop in Jordan's cost of living index from 130.3 to 130.3 points between the end of Dec. 86 through the end of Dec. 87.

The slight drop reflects a stability in commodity prices and a negligible decline in the inflation rate.

The department attributed the

slight drop to a 0.5 per cent decline in the prices of garments, shoes, housing and rents. The prices of other commodities remained fixed.

The cost of living (consumers index) during the month of December, 1987 dropped 1.8 per cent from the same month in 1986, the department said.

Prominent Arab bank launches quarterly economic bulletin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) has just issued the second volume of its bulletin entitled "Economic & Financial Quarterly" which focuses on industrial, financial and commercial activities in various Arab countries.

The bilingual Arabic/English quarterly bulletin is distributed on a complimentary and discretionary basis to the bank's clients and other interested parties. Published in London by ABC's International Publications Division, the latest issue of the bulletin examines Jordan's five-year development plan. It also analyses Bahrain's aluminum industry and provides a statistical sum-

mary of the domestic economy, external assets/liabilities and external and trade payments of each Arab country.

ABC also publishes occasional papers on the Arab banking systems, Arab industrialisation and economic relations with various European and Far Eastern countries.

The bulletin analyses Arab economies and current issues of international importance such as the oil industry and the role of the private sector in Arab states.

Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from ABC at 1-5 Moorgate, London - Eng-

Japanese, Western buyers lift less OPEC crude oil

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Haggling over oil price continues and the amount of OPEC crude being lifted by Japanese and Western buyers is lower than expected in January, an oil newsletter reported Monday.

Overall, the respected Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) quoted Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwan Lukman, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as saying current OPEC output is down to between 16 and 16.5 million barrels a day, 2.5-3 million barrels a day less than the level in the fourth quarter of 1987.

MEES said that Kuwait's national oil company was "locked into tough negotiations with its Japanese customers on price terms for contract crude."

With some OPEC crude, particularly Iranian, selling at prices well under OPEC-decreed \$18 a barrel, the Japanese buyers are insisting on price concessions.

The Kuwaitis are understood to have felt obliged to examine their price options following widespread market discounting elsewhere, particularly the offering of large volumes of Iranian crude in Europe," the Nicosia-based newsletter said.

It said that Idemitsu, the largest Japanese user of Kuwaiti crude, "has served official notice of its decision to terminate its contracts" for 120,000 barrels a day of Kuwait oil, with effect from Jan. 31.

MEES said that Abu Dhabi, the largest producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has flatly refused to consider lowering its prices from the OPEC level to market levels. It said that as a result first quarter production in the Gulf emirate could fall sharply from its OPEC-set quota of 800,000.

Two U.S. shareholders in the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Co., Exxon and Mobil have decided to cancel their Abu Dhabi liftings altogether and European shareholders are expected to cut back, it said.

In a letter to the foreign shareholder-buyers, UAE Oil Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba said, "we would blame you for any economic damage that may be experienced by the UAE as a result of any measures you may take," MEES said.

The letter flatly refused to dis-

cuss discounts. "Whoever wishes to pursue our oil, this is our price. And whoever does not accept, we have no oil for him," it said.

Oteiba said the attitude of the companies was "negative" and "would create problems that would spread and affect all."

MEES said Japan and Iran are still negotiating price but in the meantime, despite Iranian price concessions, Japanese purchases for January and February "will fall substantially short of the original target of 242,000 barrels a day."

As of now the totals look like 100,000 barrels a day for January and 200,000 for February.

MEES said it understands that Nigerian production has fallen from its OPEC-set quota of 1.3 million barrels a day to around one million barrels a day.

The newsletter said this is due to buyers unwilling to pay official prices and Nigeria unwilling to offer oil at market-related prices.

Earlier this month, the West's International Energy Agency (IEA) said that oil demand is rising faster than previously expected and also suggested that OPEC has lately shown more ability to restrict supply.

"To put it very simply, there is less oil sloshing about than many believed there was," IEA oil analyst Marcel Kramer told reporters.

An IEA report said revised data showed 50.2 million barrels daily of total world demand in the first three months of 1988, up from a previous estimate of 48.9 million. Forecasts for the period April-September showed similar rises.

An IEA official noted that there had so far been no marked firming of prices despite market suspicions last month that IEA demand figures would be revised upwards.

But the IEA's figures showed that in December, OPEC began curbing the overproduction which has depressed prices. And it said that underlying early 1988 demand for OPEC oil might exceed the level at which the group was producing in December.

The Paris-based IEA seeks to coordinate energy policies in 21 industrial nations. It was formed in the 1970s.

The IEA December monthly report said it expected that the Third World would be using more oil than previously thought.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — A faltering start on Wall Street gave the signal to profitakers in London, drawing share prices back from their highs in quiet afternoon business, dealers said. By 1514 GMT Monday, the FTSE 100 share index was up 11.7 points to 1,798.4 with the 1,800 resistance level again proving difficult to breach for any significant length of time. The FTSE index touched a high of 1,806.3 around mid-morning, pushing through 1,800 for the first time since Jan. 7. Steady buying throughout the morning was fuelled by continuing optimism after last Friday's smaller, than expected U.S. merchandise trade deficit for November, dealers said. London shares continued to shadow Wall Street's performance and prices picked up later in the afternoon to reflect the tentative morning gain in the New York market. A number of dealers were wary of the gains scored here since Friday on the U.S. trade figures. "One (economic) number doesn't represent an underlying improvement in the U.S.'s general situation," one broker said. He went on to express concern that the U.S. remains unlikely to show resolve in tackling its budget and trade deficits through direct action in a U.S. election year.

Egypt still faces problems with IMF

CAIRO (R) — The "Egypt question" is testing Western governments again — should a poor but strategically vital ally be bailed out, come what may?

Western diplomats report that Egypt, over \$40 billion in debt, is having trouble with some of the economic reforms the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pressed on it.

May after the IMF agreement was signed.

Cairo has so far agreed about \$4.3 billion worth of rescheduling with five governments — the United States (\$1.6 billion), France (\$1.6 billion), West Germany (\$300 million), Spain (\$400 million) and Austria (\$250 million).

Egyptian negotiators are now touring Scandinavian countries and Britain.

As soon as relief based on the Paris Club May accord has been finalised, Cairo is certain to apply to reschedule another 18 months' payments due by the end of 1989, diplomats say.

The crucial worry is that without an IMF agreement in place, there can be no guarantee the Paris Club will make further rescheduling this year," one said.

Others say the Paris Club will not even listen to Egypt if its IMF programme breaks down.

That would deprive Cairo of breathing space as it gropes for long-term solutions in an economy seeking to reconcile a population explosion, too little arable land, a heavy state sector and fickle dollar-earners like oil and tourism.

In simple terms it is: "We are an important country, and we need sustained help with our economy if we are to stay stable."

Diplomats said Egypt's recent misunderstandings with the IMF included a row over calculating the budget deficit, 5.6 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion), in 1986-87 which ended June 30. IMF target figures are set.

The IMF wants steeper and faster price rises for subsidised goods like bread, petrol and electricity. Cairo has raised them, but they remain well below world levels.

The fund wants Egypt to boost interest rates to attract domestic savings and dollars sent home by Egyptians abroad. Rates are currently around 11 to 12 per cent, compared with inflation estimated at 20 to 30 per cent.

In addition, Egypt's IMF-linked reforms have to satisfy the World Bank in order to unlock project loans totalling over \$500 million, diplomats say.

President Hosni Mubarak is expected to press Egypt's case for continuing favoured treatment by Western leaders when he visits Bonn, London, Washington, Paris and Rome from Jan. 25.

He is heading West with extra political clout after a tour of Arab allies last week consolidated Egypt's return to the main arena

of Arab affairs after eight years on the touchline because of its peace pact with Israel.

His tour underscored Egypt's potential role as a military backer to the Gulf Arabs and a counter-weight to Iran.

There was speculation that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states might pump more aid and investment into Egypt, and possibly write off old debts. Such aid, if confirmed, would help Egypt to weather any rift with the IMF.

Western eyes have been riveted on Israel's crisis in the West Bank and Gaza and, by association, its impact on Egypt — the only Arab country pledged to peace with Israel.

With Muslim hardliners involved in anti-Israeli protests in Cairo and slogans raised against rising prices, Egypt's message to the West has a new edge.

In Western treasuries and foreign ministries, help for Egypt is again an active issue. The IMF gave Cairo what economists saw as exceptionally soft terms, and failure to meet even these requirements would test Western resolve.

Some experts want to wean Egyptians off subsidised living for their long-term good, even at the risk of unrest. Others want favoured treatment to continue. "Egypt remains very a special case," said one diplomat. "If we want to keep Egypt stable and a factor for stability in the Middle East, we have to accept we have to feed its people."

Others worry more about IMF credibility.

"If you give a country a soft programme, then say never mind if it doesn't live up to the conditions, there is a genuine fear among some governments for the whole debt programme," one said.

fact were at the heart of the crash of '87.

The Oct. 14 report of a big August trade gap helped to kick off heavy selling on Wall Street that reached a peak on "Black Monday," Oct. 19, when the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 per cent.

Many feel that an American spending spree on imported goods was pushing too many dollars out of the country — far more than people outside the United States wanted to hold.

The price of gold, often seen as a haven when other investments weaken, was fixed in London at \$475.85 an ounce, down \$6 from Friday's close.

But despite the U.S. report on Friday that its trade deficit for November fell to \$13.22 billion from a record monthly gap of \$17.63 billion in October, investors remained nervous.

"Taking the two months together, the picture does not look quite so rosy," a London currency dealer said.

Dealers say the stubbornly high U.S. trade deficit, along with an almost equally large budget de-

U.S. trade figures relieve financial markets

LONDON (R) — The dollar and shares both rose Monday, but dealers said they were leery of pushing financial markets too far, too fast in response to a sharp drop in the U.S. trade deficit reported on Friday.

Shares firmed. London's FTSE 100-share index gained 0.75 per cent to rise above 1,800 and West German shares jumped five per cent.

The dollar rose half a pfennig and one-quarter yen from Friday's close in London to trade just below 1,6850 Deutschemarks and 130.50 yen in Europe at midday. It had gone even higher in Asia, but eased off after dealers started having second thoughts about its rapid rise.

In Tokyo, the world's biggest market, the Nikkei 225-share average rose 306.55 points, or 1.36 per cent, to end its first trading day since Thursday at

22,910.20. But second thoughts prevailed there, too.

The index had soared nearly 508 points in the first 35 minutes of trading and then eased off.

"The market was relieved, but there are still people who want to sell," said Tadaaki Uehara, deputy general manager of Wako Securities in Tokyo. "The horizon is not totally clear yet," he added.

In Paris, dealers said the government showed its confidence in a rebounding stock market in announcing that its sale of a 51 per cent interest in the arms and electronics firm Matra would go ahead this month.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7715/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2875/65	Canadian dollar
	1.6838/45	Deutschmarks
	1.8906/16	Dutch guilders
	1.3728/38	Swiss francs
	35.17/20	Belgian francs
	5.6760/90	French francs
	1235/1237	Italian lire
	130.33/43	Japanese yen
	6.0520/70	Swedish kronas
	6.4260/4310	Norwegian kronas
One ounce of gold	6.4570/4620	Danish kronas
	476.90/477.40	U.S. dollars

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Nicaragua criticises U.S. over prospects of more aid to contras

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The restoration of civil liberties promised by President Daniel Ortega may not last long if the U.S. Congress approves more aid to the contra rebels in a vote set for next month, the government said.

Bayardo Arce, one of the nine ruling comandantes in the Nicaraguan government, issued the warning in an interview published Sunday in the official Barricada newspaper.

Ortega, pressured by neighbours and threatened by the imminent congressional vote on continued rebel aid, on Saturday said he would lift a 6-year-old state of emergency and open direct cease-fire talks with the contras. He said the talks could begin this week.

The easing of restrictions on civil liberties was mandated by a regional peace plan signed in August. The deadline for compliance fell on Friday. Ortega announced the move on Saturday in Costa Rica at the end of a two-day meeting of five Central American presidents who signed the plan.

The other signatories to the pact brokered by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

state of emergency, which banned the right to demonstrate, strike, move about the country freely and to receive a speedy trial.

It also enabled police to make arrests without a court order.

The U.S. Congress, which has approved about \$150 million in contra aid since 1985, is scheduled to vote in three weeks on President Ronald Reagan's pending request for an additional \$270 million.

In Washington, White House spokesman Roman Popaduk said Reagan would make the request despite Ortega's move.

Arce's statements, quoted by Barricada, appeared to be an assurance to hardliners that the principles of the Nicaraguan revolution would not be compromised.

"We don't want war, but we want our revolution, and if we have to have war for the revolution, then we will do so," he was quoted as saying.

Ortega also said Saturday that, once a cease-fire is reached with the contras and the rebels are "incorporated into civilian life," the government would grant amnesty to all political prisoners arrested after 1981.

If no true is reached, the president said, Nicaragua's San-

dinista government would turn the prisoners over to the United States or any other country outside Central America willing to take them.

The government recently said there are about 1,200 political prisoners. Human rights groups estimate about five times that number.

In the past five months, Nicaragua has permitted the reopening of the only opposition newspaper, La Prensa, and the Roman Catholic radio station. Two exiled priests also were allowed to return.

A Nicaraguan contra rebel leader said Sunday a Sandinista army defector was likely to be in the rebel delegation for direct ceasefire talks with the government.

"It's almost certain that the resistance (rebels) ... will name Maj. Roger Miranda as one of its delegates. Since he recently deserted the Sandinistas, he knows them very well," contra leader Alfonso Robelo said by telephone.

Miranda, former private secretary of Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, defected to the United States last year and stated that the Sandinistas planned to build a 500,000-strong army by 1995.

Argentine troops ready to crush military revolt

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Loyalist troops aboard tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks prepared Monday to advance against positions held by rebel forces commanded by cashiered Lt. Col. Aldo Rico.

The official news agency Telam said three columns, made up of more than 50 vehicles, gathered at the town of Chajarí and departed at 4:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) toward the rebel-held 4th Infantry Regiment at Monte Caseros, some 31 miles (50 kilometres) north east.

Other units, including armour and infantry, were reported to be awaiting orders in towns surrounding Monte Caseros.

A local radio station, Radio Chajarí, quoted military officials as saying that heavy rain, which began Sunday night in the area, 325 miles (525 kilometres) north east of Buenos Aires, would delay efforts to end the rebellion, the second led by Rico in nine months.

Loyalist troops, estimated to total more than 2,000 men under command of army Chief of Staff Jose Caridi, converged on the area throughout Sunday for a showdown with mutineers.

President Raul Alfonsin ordered the army, navy and air force on Sunday night to combine efforts to end the revolt. Social Welfare Minister Ricardo Barrios Arecheta said Alfonsin, acting as commander-in-chief, gave the order following a review of the crisis by military and defence officials.

The minister made his statements upon leaving the presidential residence in suburban Olivos.

A communiqué issued by Defence Minister Horacio Jaumarena said the president had ordered the "preparation and participation" of the three branches

to support the restoration of discipline within the army and in defence of "institutions of republic."

Attention centred on Monte Caseros, where Rico told an impromptu, rain-drenched news conference that his troops, believed to total about 100, were "well supplied and will not surrender" to an estimated 2,000 loyalist forces.

Other incidents in support of the rebels were reported in western San Luis, south western Neuquén and southern Santa Cruz provinces and in the northern city of Tucumán and north eastern Paso De Los Libres.

The army confirmed that it had put down an attempted revolt in Las Lajas in Neuquén, 688 miles (1,100 kilometres) south west of Buenos Aires, and had arrested 13 officers of the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment. No shots were fired.

Loyalist units also were reported to be moving to control incidents at the 161st Artillery Brigade in San Luis, 519 miles (830 kilometres) west of the capital, and at the 19th Infantry Regiment in Tucumán, 818 miles (1,309 kilometres) north west.

Many units throughout the country sent messages to army headquarters pledging support. 5th Army Corps Commander Gen. Humberto Ferreyra promised loyalist troops would open fire against Rico and his men if they did not end their revolt.

Army headquarters in Buenos Aires said in a communiqué that loyal units, which moved in on Sunday and surrounded the rebels holed up in the 4th Infantry Regiment, were acting with "greatest prudence and moderation" in Monte Caseros to avoid endangering the "civilian population, private property and economic resources in the area."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Expert finds unique shells in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — A leading international conchologist has found sea shells in the Gulf state of Oman that are new to science, natural history experts has said. Kathleen Saville, 60, a London-based conchologist attached to the British Museum, is helping the government catalogue its shell collection, which numbers over 6,000 specimens and 500 species. She has written an authoritative reference text, *Shells of the Arabian Gulf*, published in 1982. "It is exciting work," she said in an interview. "I have found a new key-hole limpet, a rock-boring mollusc not seen live before, and several shells not yet identified but certainly new. I expect to find more of importance." She describes several species of shell new to science in nearly 20 scientific papers to her credit. They include a shell discovered in Oman in 1984 and named *Parvularia paulboehni*. Rare or new shells found in Oman are sent to American and British institutions for formal identification. Second largest country in the Arabian peninsula, Oman's coastline extends for over 1,700 kilometres, or more than 1,000 miles, mainly along the Arabian Sea. But scientists did not catalogue Oman's shells formally until 1984 when the collection was started.

Chemist develops anti-snoring drug

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav chemist, inspired by reading that every second adult around the world snores regularly, has developed an anti-snoring drug which he plans to market in April. The Zagreb daily *Vjesnik*, a rock-boring mollusc not seen live before, and several shells not yet identified but certainly new. I expect to find more of importance." She describes several species of shell new to science in nearly 20 scientific papers to her credit. They include a shell discovered in Oman in 1984 and named *Parvularia paulboehni*. Rare or new shells found in Oman are sent to American and British institutions for formal identification. Second largest country in the Arabian peninsula, Oman's coastline extends for over 1,700 kilometres, or more than 1,000 miles, mainly along the Arabian Sea. But scientists did not catalogue Oman's shells formally until 1984 when the collection was started.

U.S. poet mugged in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — American poet Allen Ginsberg was mugged while walking in downtown Jerusalem after dark, police have said. "But unlike New York, I got my bag back," Ginsberg, 61, was quoted as saying by the *Jerusalem Post* newspaper. Ginsberg was walking from a Jerusalem Hotel to a friend's house Saturday night when a youth attacked him from behind and grabbed his bag, said police spokesman Rafi Levy. The bag was later recovered in nearby bushes, its contents untouched, Levy said. He said Ginsberg filed a complaint against the assailant. The *Jerusalem Post* quoted the poet as saying: "There are no problems, no problems." Ginsberg was not in his hotel for comment Sunday. Ginsberg gained fame as a poet of the Beat Movement of 1950 which also included writer Jack Kerouac. Among Ginsberg's best-known poems are *Howl* and *Kaddish*. He came to Israel to conduct a seminar at a Tel Aviv photography school, the *Jerusalem Post* said. The newspaper said he also works as a teaching assistant to Robert Frank, a U.S. photographer. Ginsberg describes himself as a Buddhist Jew.

Man jailed for biting off finger

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A court has sentenced a man to 20 days in jail and fined him for biting off the finger of a friend he accused of making too much noise, a newspaper reported Sunday. The *Gulf News* said the Dubai criminal court in Dubai sentenced Sita Ram Raju, a 25-year-old man from India, to 20 days in jail and fined him 500 dirhams (\$135) for attacking a man who shared his apartment, identified as Hirbal K. The newspaper said Raju told the court he had asked Hirbal to stop making noise so that he could enjoy a drink with a friend. When the noise continued, he attacked Hirbal and bit off the finger. Indians form a large part of the expatriate work force in the United Arab Emirates. The newspaper did not say on what day the man was sentenced, or the date of his conviction. It did not say whether attempts were made to surgically reattach the finger, but described the victim as "disabled" and the court told him he could file a separate suit for damages.

200,000 attend last Tina Turner concert

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — About 200,000 chanting fans packed the world's largest soccer stadium on Saturday to see rock queen Tina Turner samba to her latest hits as well as favourite oldies. Turner sang beneath the stars from a glittery green and blue carnival parade float mounted on the massive stage in the Maracana Soccer Stadium. About 100 members of the *Beija Flor*, or "humming bird" samba school, dressed in feathers and sequins, accompanied Turner. The crowds, which according to the *O Globo* newspaper far surpassed her previous attendance record of 98,000 in West Germany, canted "Tina, Tina," as the rock queen danced the samba with the Brazilian carnival performers. During the one hour and forty minute show, Turner, 48, sang both old and new hits, including *Help*, which she dedicated to Rio de Janeiro. Turner has been in Brazil since late December for concerts in Sao Paulo and Saturday's Rio show, which she has said will be the last of her career.

Ballet stars join in AIDS benefit dance

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Twenty-five world ballet stars, including Soviet dancers from both East and West, met Sunday for the first time in an anti-AIDS benefit dance. Bolshoi dancers Ludmilla Semenyaka and Yuri Posochov, and Kirov stars Irinia Kolpakova and Sergei Berejnoi were on the programme, as well as Natalia Makarova, an ex-Kirov star who now lives in the West, and Eva Evdakimova, another Soviet expatriate. Marcia Haydee and James Crumlin came from Stuttgart; Stephanie Soland and Gigi Hyatt from Hamburg; Alicia Alonso and Orlando Salgado from Cuba; Antonia Castilla and Arantxa Arguello from Madrid; Eileen Brady from Zurich; Paul Chalmers from London; Denys Gadio and Jan Broeckx from Marseilles; and Wim Broeckx from the Dutch National Ballet. Local ballet stars included Maria Teresa Del Real, Pablo Savoy and Koen Onzia from the Ballet of Flanders. The guests, who danced for no fee, interpreted some of the most famous solos and duos of classic and modern ballet and joined for the finale, led by Onzia. U.S. ballerina Eileen Brady addressed the crowd, dedicating her performance to her brother, who died from AIDS, and all AIDS victims.

Yearly U.S. heart deaths exceed 4 wars

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — In a single year, diseases of the heart and blood vessels kill far more Americans than died in World Wars I and II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, according to figures. Even though cardiovascular disease mortality has dropped 20 per cent in the last decade, it still kills nearly 1 million people annually. Experts believe that many people fail to recognise the vast scope of this group of illnesses, which don't seem to evoke as much fear as lesser killers. "Much of the uses the facts that are currently available about reducing cardiovascular risk," said Dr. Howard Morgan, president of the American Heart Association. The group released the latest death statistics at the start of its annual science writers forum. Experts believe that a sizable share of deaths from heart attack and strokes can be prevented if people stop smoking, get their blood pressure down and watch their diets to reduce cholesterol levels. During the four major wars of this century, 636,282 Americans were killed. In 1985, the last year for which there are accurate figures, 991,332 Americans died of heart attacks, strokes, and other blood vessel diseases. The second leading cause of death in 1985 was cancer, which took 457,670 lives. Stroke, another blood vessel disease, was third, killing 152,700.

Roh may form cabinet with opposition

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President-elect Roh Tae-woo said Monday he plans to fill some cabinet posts with opposition members.

Roh said he will ask the opposition camp to recommend suitable candidates for the posts, but did not say what posts would be offered. There was no immediate reaction from the opposition.

Meanwhile, the single-house National Assembly began a new session Monday to prepare election laws that must be completed before upcoming legislative elections. The present assembly, elected in February 1985, is to dissolve by late April.

Roh talked to reporters about his plans for a new cabinet and

7 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A two-year-old boy was shot dead in his mother's arms and six other

people were killed on Sunday in one of the worst days of a black-against-black feud near the city of Pietermaritzburg, police said on Monday.

The killings in the shantytown war in Pietermaritzburg, capital of South Africa's Natal province, took the toll to at least 44 this month despite stepped-up efforts by police to curb the violence.

The two-year-old died and two women were seriously wounded when a group of blacks opened fire on them, police said in a daily bulletin on unrest. The report did not elaborate.

In other incidents in the area, three blacks were stabbed to death, a 33-year-old man died of burns when a petrol bomb was thrown at a house, and two others were killed of knife and bullet wounds.

The highest one-day death toll in the strife, which gathered momentum in the last four months of 1987, was last September when 12 people died after the house they were in was attacked and victims were shot as they tried to escape.

"We have adequate security," added Police Chief Gen. Manuel Roxas. "Metro-Manila is practically ringed by (government) forces."

Collecting and counting votes for mayors and provincial governors became the final hurdle in the country's two-year journey back to democracy following the 1986 overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos and President Corazon Aquino's rise to power.

Poll officials said they feared that achieving an accurate tally could be the biggest problem after a vicious election campaign

in which 91 people were reported killed.

One of the last victims, a candidate running for provincial governor, was shot dead at a late Sunday night rally.

"I exhort our countrymen to exercise people power especially during the counting tonight. They should be doubly on guard against any irregularity or attempted fraud," Ramon Felipe, chairman of the Supervisory Commission on Elections (Comelec) appealed on radio.

Communist rebels, blamed for much of the campaign violence, snatched ballot boxes in the central island of Negros. The military said the Communist New People's Army wounded 22 people when guerrillas threw a grenade inside a passenger bus in the southern island of Mindanao and blew up an army jeep wounding three soldiers.

Gumens shot and seriously wounded a policeman guarding a polling station south of Manila and threw a petrol bomb at a police car in a provincial centre.

Military and election officials reported a heavy turnout among the nation's 27.6 million registered voters for the first local elections since polling held under martial law in 1980.

Haitians snub fraud-married elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Opposition leaders who had urged Haitians to boycott Sunday's elections claimed credit for what apparently was a very low turnout in balloting marked last Saturday's national strike.

Nevertheless, the government that came to power two years ago upon the flight to exile of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier claimed a turnout of 10 per cent.

Many people stayed home because of fear of violence or pessimism about the fairness of the poll. Opposition leaders estimated voter turnout at 5 per cent to 20 per cent.

The government refused to release figures either on voter turnout or election results after the polls closed at 6 p.m. (2300 GMT). The Information Ministry referred reporters to the junta-appointed Electoral Council.

The council in turn refused to give figures, and none were provided by a state-run television.

Unlike the Nov. 29 elections, which were cancelled after things killed at least 34 people, Sunday's election was peaceful with no deaths reported.

"The election is valid as long as there are (any) voters," Manigat said.

Eugene claimed that Manigat had the covert support of the army, but went on to say: "My voters are so many it would be impossible for Mr. Manigat to win."

Ballot was to elect a president and National Assembly to replace the three-man junta, which rules by decree. Votes also were cast for mayors in cities and towns across this arid, mountainous Caribbean nation of 6 million.

Presidential candidates need a

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOHSEN

AND OMAR SHARIF

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MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

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WEST

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